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CCCOWE at 50 Calls the Chinese Church to Renew Its Vision for God's Mission



The 10th World Congress on Chinese Evangelization (CCCOWE Congress) officially kicked off amidst the melodious sounds of traditional Sarawakian instruments, indigenous dances, and choral worship. Following the opening, a short documentary marking “CCCOWE at 50” was screened. Presenting the challenges facing the contemporary world, the film called upon believers to trust that God is still speaking, urging them to open their ears to His voice in this generation and look steadfastly unto Him.

In his welcoming address, Rev. David Doong, General Secretary of CCCOWE, greeted participants from over 50 countries and regions. He mentioned that 15% of the congress participants are youth leaders under

the age of 35, reflecting the Movement's commitment to raising up the next generation of servant leaders for God's mission. Through the CCCOWE theme song, he articulated the core spirit of the movement: by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone, remaining centered on the gospel, following the faithful example of those who have gone before us, and joining God's work among all peoples in this generation.

Quoting We Are As Gods, The Age of Uncontrollable Anxiety, and Charles Dickens' famous opening in A Tale of Two Cities, Rev. Doong noted that contemporary believers are living in an era where light and darkness intersect—a time filled with both infinite possibilities and profound anxiety. However,

just as recorded in the Gospel of Mark, the three women worried about who would roll away the heavy stone from Jesus' tomb; yet when they looked up, they discovered that the stone had already been rolled away. The stone in their hearts was not just the physical boulder, but also symbolized human fixed mindsets, fear, and anxiety that prevent people from seeing the new things God has already accomplished. Only by looking up to God can we see Him as the Waymaker and regain true hope.

Marking the 50th anniversary of CCCOWE and reflecting on the global Chinese church over the past half-century, while there has been growth in numbers and resources, the church also faces crises such as inadequate discipleship, imbalanced resource allocation, self-preservation mindsets, competition, selfishness, and greed. Therefore, the church must begin with repentance, seek God's presence anew, and re-engage in the mission of global evangelization.



Returning to the Cross: A Call to Renew the Church's Witness



In his reflection and testimony, Rev. Dr. Joshua Ting, former General Secretary of CCCOWE, spoke candidly about the problems and tensions facing the contemporary Chinese church.

Although many churches have experienced impressive growth in organizational structure, membership, and financial giving, he observed that internal division, disconnection, conflict, and rivalry have weakened the Church's witness and contributed to a growing disconnect with the next generation.

He further noted that while many churches may be aware of these issues, they choose to turn a blind eye and compromise due to a reluctance to pay the price, lay down self, and return to the cross, allowing these problems to worsen over time.

Rev. Dr. Ting earnestly reminded participants that only by rebuilding the spiritual lives of Christians, raising up true followers of Jesus Christ who live out the truth, take up their cross, and shoulder Christ's mandate, can the church bear faithful and powerful witness in this era.

"True church renewal should not begin with institutional reforms or strategic adjustments, but with the spiritual renewal of believers' lives." — Rev. Dr. Joshua Ting

Reflecting on Past Congresses, Rethinking the Universal Gospel Mandate

Dr. Teng Cheung Kai-Yum, widow of the late founder of the CCCOWE Movement, Rev. Philip Teng, shared her nearly 40-year journey with CCCOWE since attending her first congress in Macau in 1987. Since founding the International



Fellowship of Christian Short Term Missions (IFSTM) during the 4th CCOWE Congress, her teams have arrived ahead of every congress to partner with local Chinese churches in driving mission efforts, preserving and continuing CCCOWE's spiritual legacy.

She presented three critical directions for the Chinese church to continually reflect upon. First, promote workplace missions: integrating a missionary vision into the marketplace. Second, guard against church growth movement obsession: avoiding the pursuit of numerical scale at the expense of the core mission. Third, continually reflect on the essence of the gospel: keeping Jesus Christ firmly at the center.

Mandate and Calling: Returning to the Essence of Faith

Rev. Edmund Chan, keynote speaker at the



previous CCCOWE Congress, opened his message with a lighthearted story: A Japanese tourist visiting the U.S. constantly marveled at the fast Japanese cars speeding by.

Upon reaching his destination and seeing the high fare, the driver humorously replied, “The meter is also made in Japan, so it runs extra fast.” This joke illustrated his core message—modern people are constantly rushing in the “fast lane,” often overlooking the essential foundations of life.

The church today stands at a crucial juncture of unprecedented challenges and opportunities, urgently needing to return to the essence of faith and discern what is non-negotiable. He emphasized: “Mandate precedes Mission.” Mission must be built upon the foundation of walking with God; discipleship must work “from the inside out,” prioritizing the cultivation of inner spiritual life.

Rev. Chan illustrated this truth through four biblical figures. Through David's story of being chosen, Rev. Chan emphasized that God looks at the heart rather than outward appearance. Referencing Exodus 18:20, he highlighted that Moses taught the people the “way to live” before teaching them the “work to do,” because walking with God always precedes active service. Noah's story reminds leaders to seek God's heart with

“Every generation must faithfully fulfill the mission entrusted by God and pass the gospel mandate to the next generation, continuing to advance the CCCOWE Movement and respond to the Great Commission.” — Dr. Teng Cheung Kai-Yum

awe and obedience, rather than rushing to complete tasks. Finally, with Paul's example he encouraged believers to count knowing Christ as supreme, letting the depth of their spiritual life support the height of their ministry.

Participant Profiles & Quotes



Bro. Sheng Kai Huang (Career Guidance Consultant, Mindmap Co., Taichung, Taiwan)

"I am eagerly looking forward to learning through this congress, engaging in cross-cultural and multi-perspective dialogues, and discerning God's revelation for our generation."



Deacon Tam Di Tran (Evangelical Church of Vietnam Luong Nhu Hoc Church) and **Bro. Vinh Gia Tran** (College student, Vietnam)

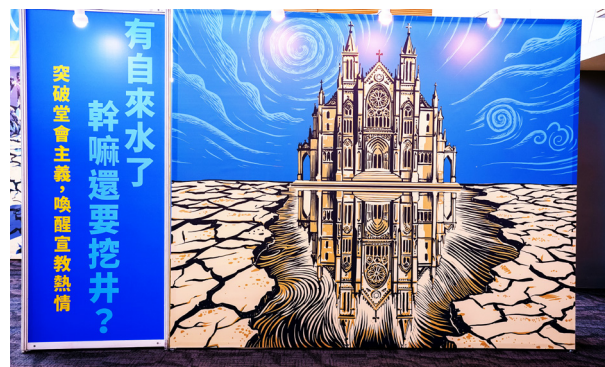
Attending the congress for the first time upon their pastor's invitation, sister Tam Di Tran shared her desire to "come empty-handed and return fully overflowing," while her brother Tran Vinh Gia hoped to connect with new friends from across the globe.



Sis. Michelle Chen (Volunteer, Chin Fu Methodist Church, Malaysia)

"Serving as a volunteer for such a monumental congress for the first time is a joy and an honor. I am thrilled to coordinate with volunteers from different regions and hope to be a helpful hand for the congress."

CCOWE at 50 — Digging Wells of Life: Present-Day Reflections on Global Missions



Upon entering the venue, attendees are greeted by an eye-catching blue-and-yellow exhibition area. Stepping closer, the exhibition not only chronicles CCCOWE's 50-year journey and global impact, but also uses "Digging Wells" as a central metaphor—drawing parallels across goals, challenges, contexts, tools, and workers to prompt deep reflection on contemporary global missions.

Accompanied by seven illustrations created by renowned Taiwanese director and illustrator Yung Hsin Chuang, the display utilizes rich visual elements to highlight the theme "Digging Wells of Life." Each panel features an illustration paired with a concise, thought-provoking question on one side, while the reverse side unpacks its deeper message and spiritual takeaway. Taking time to read through these panels provides not only a deeper understanding of today's global mission landscape, but also inspires disciples of Christ to re-examine the future direction of church missions.

"Do not merely pursue platforms of ministry; walk steadfastly on the path with God. Let the depth of your spiritual life sustain the height of your service, responding to the Great Commission with a solid spiritual foundation." — Rev. Edmund Chan